I--
I'M SORRY..!
GRAB

PULL
NNGH!
WELL
WELL WELL...
WE WEREN'T
SURE WHAT WE'D BE
DEALING WITH IF YOU
EVER CAME BACK...

BUT
WE KNEW THAT
IF WE PUSHED YOU
TO YOUR ABSOLUTE
LIMIT, THE TRUTH
WOULD COME
OUT.

AFTER
ALL THIS TIME...
YOU'RE EVEN MORE
OF A MONSTER THAN
YOU WERE BACK
THEN.

POEM

ROOM of
SWORDS

STORY/ART: TOONIMATED

CHAPTER 77

"HERE ON MY MOUTH"

I NEVER MEANT TO HURT ANYONE!

PLEASE,
YOU HAVE TO
BELIEVE ME!

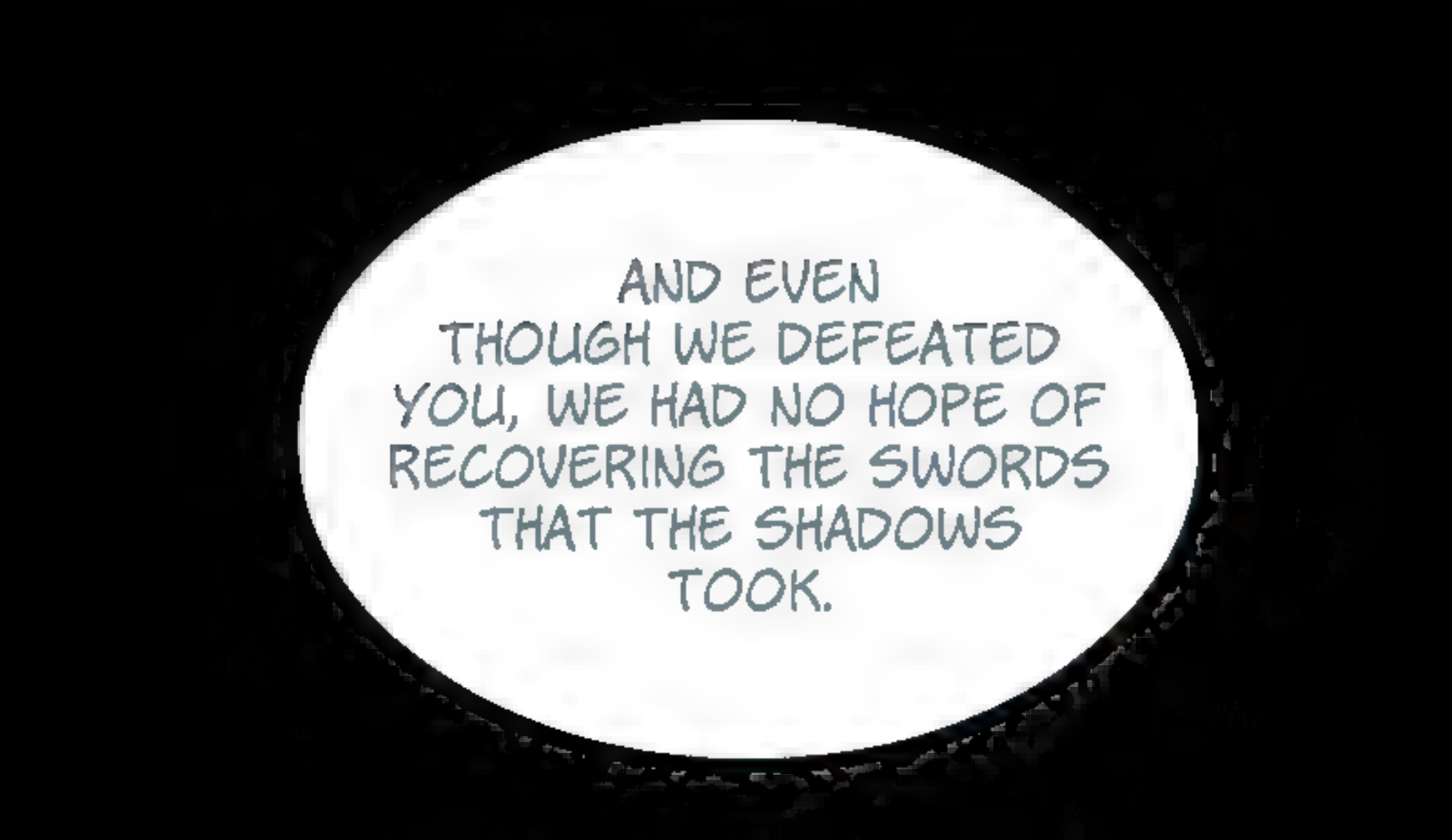
BWAAAH!
"YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!"

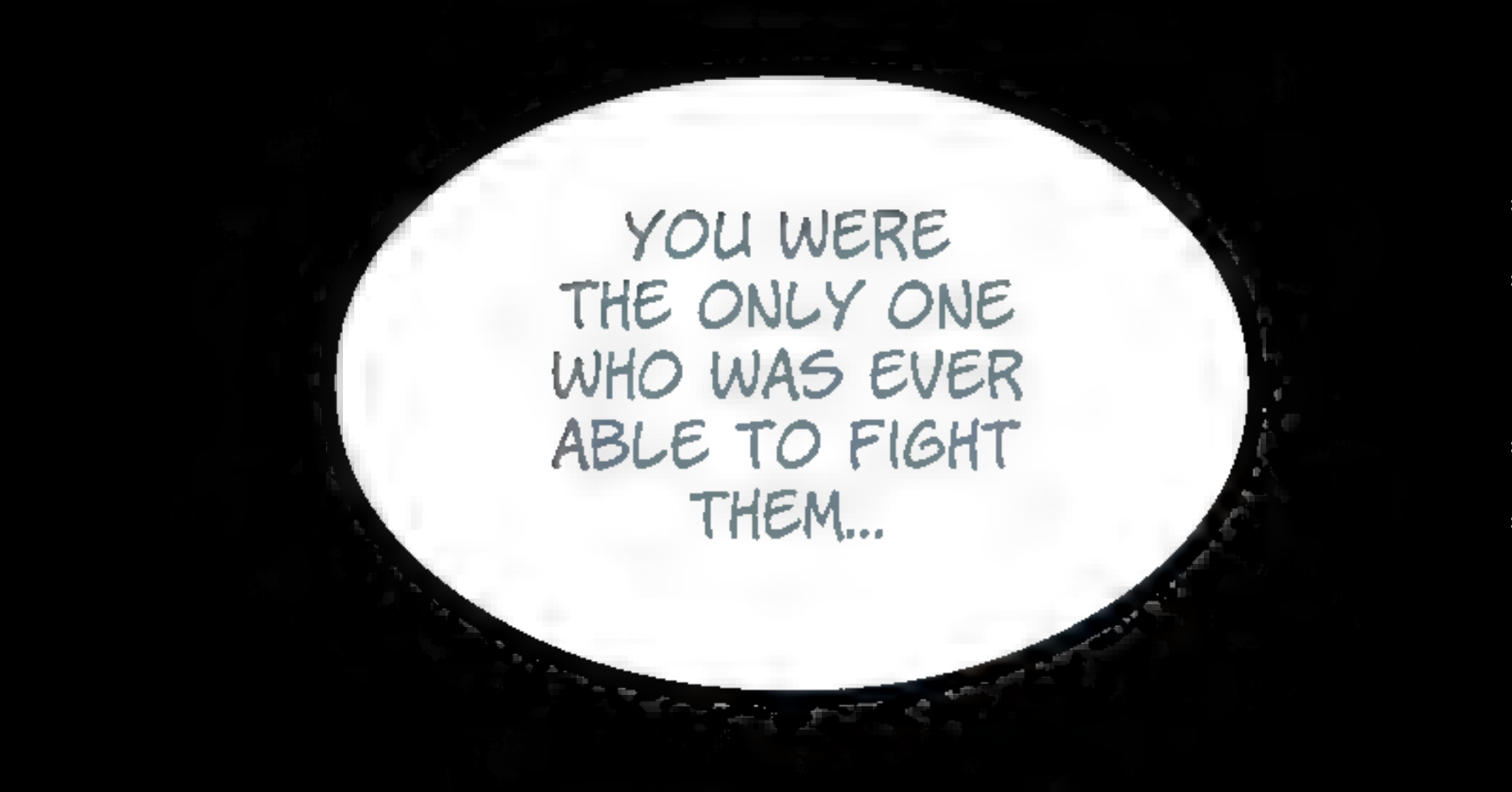
WE DID
BELIEVE IN YOU
ONCE. YOU WERE LOVED,
YOU WERE RESPECTED, AND
WE WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED
YOU TO HELL AND BACK
WITHOUT QUESTION.

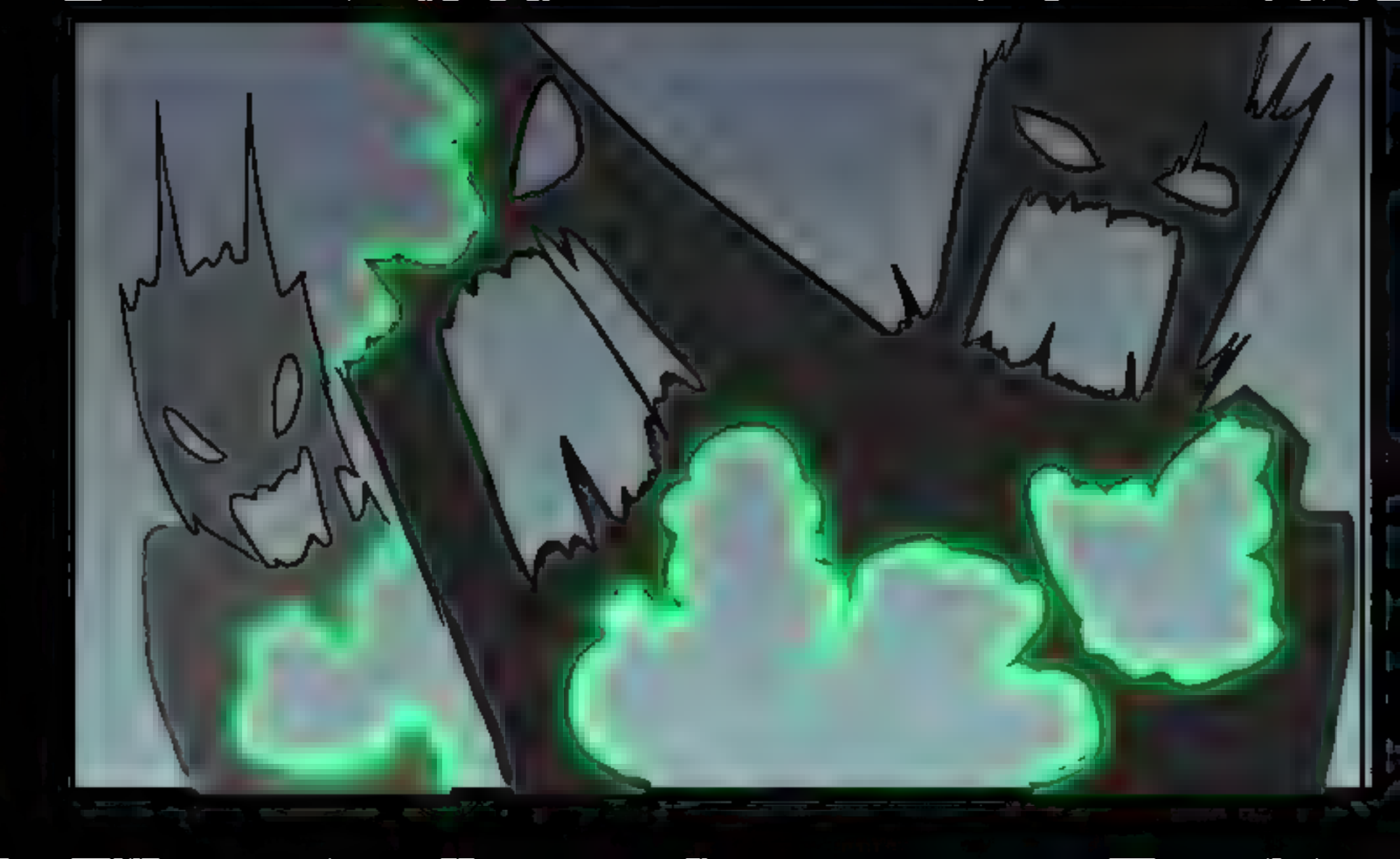
screeesh...
screesh...

screeeeesh...
screeeesh...

AND HOW DID YOU THANK US? BY HELPING THE SHADOW ARMY TO STEAL OUR SWORDS...


AND EVEN
THOUGH WE DEFEATED
YOU, WE HAD NO HOPE OF
RECOVERING THE SWORDS
THAT THE SHADOWS
TOOK.


YOU WERE
THE ONLY ONE
WHO WAS EVER
ABLE TO FIGHT
THEM...

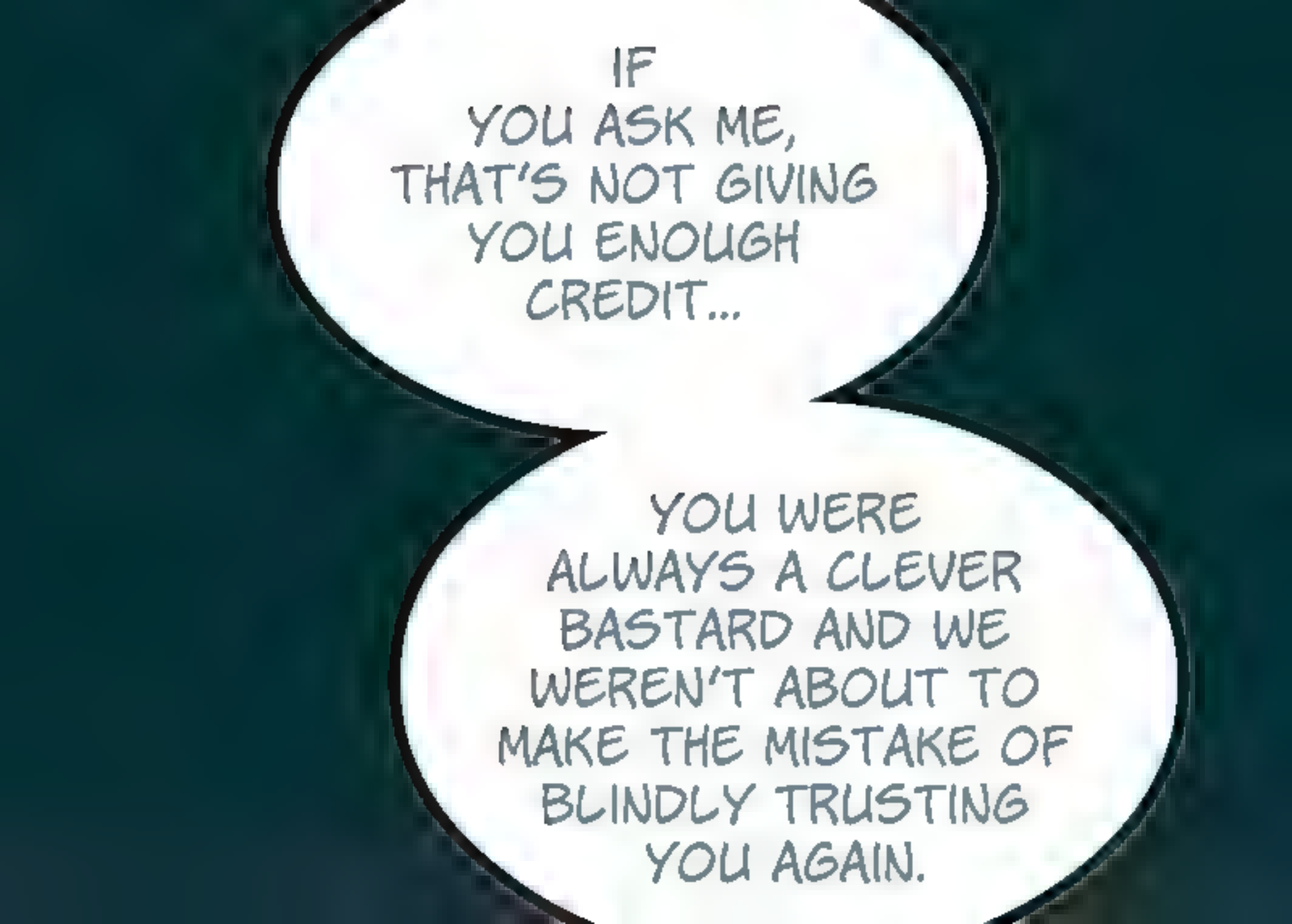


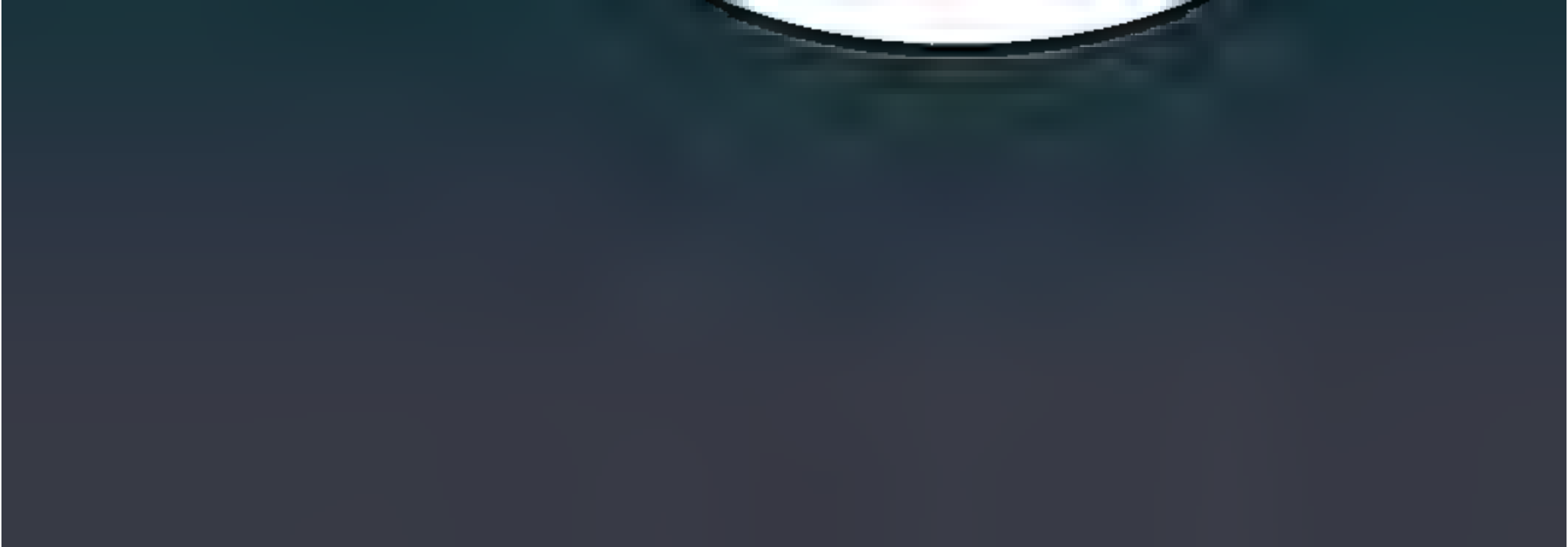
SO WE
STILL NEEDED
YOU.

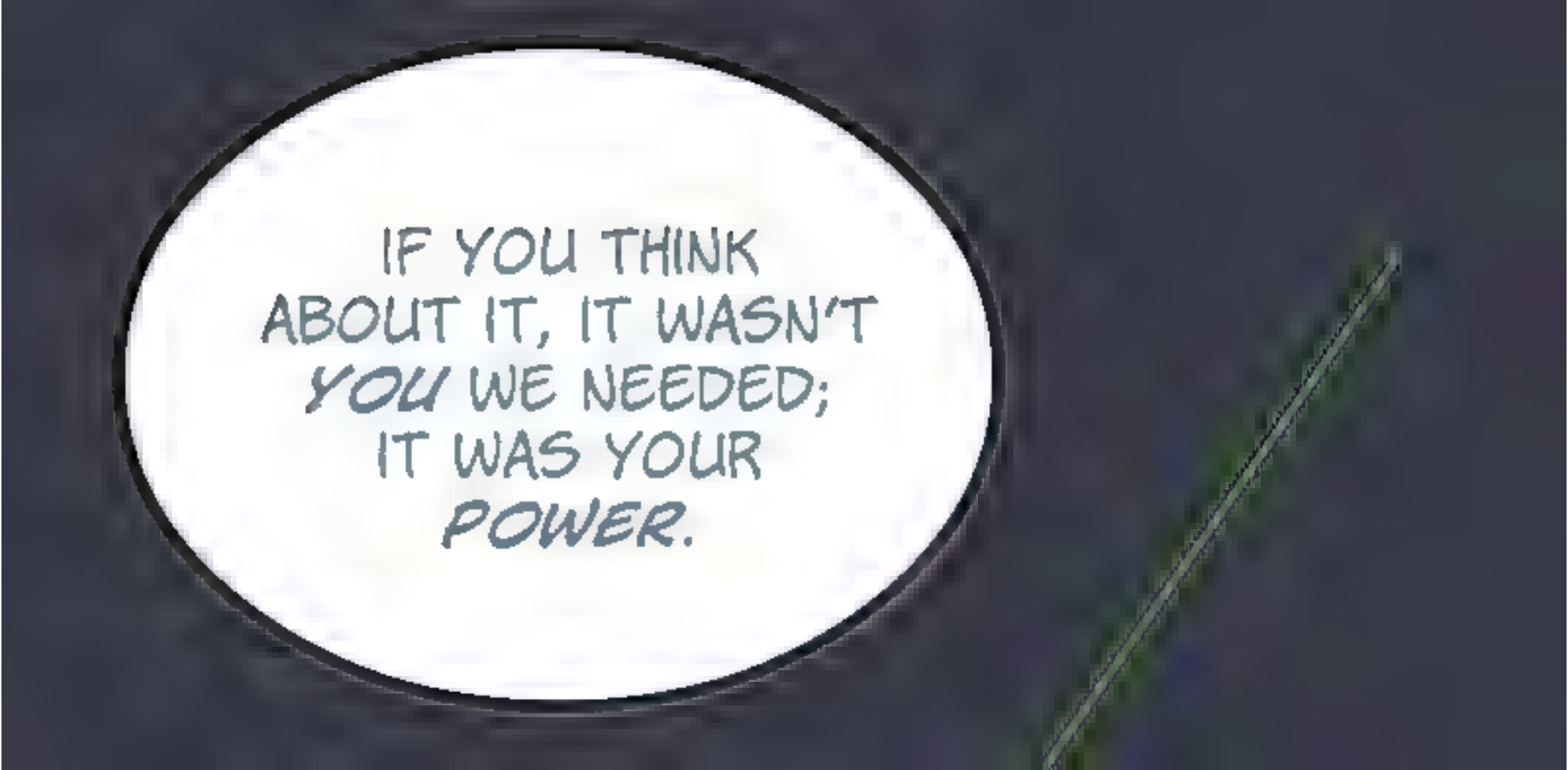
NOW,
DON'T YOU
THINK THAT'S
AN INTERESTING
COINCIDENCE?

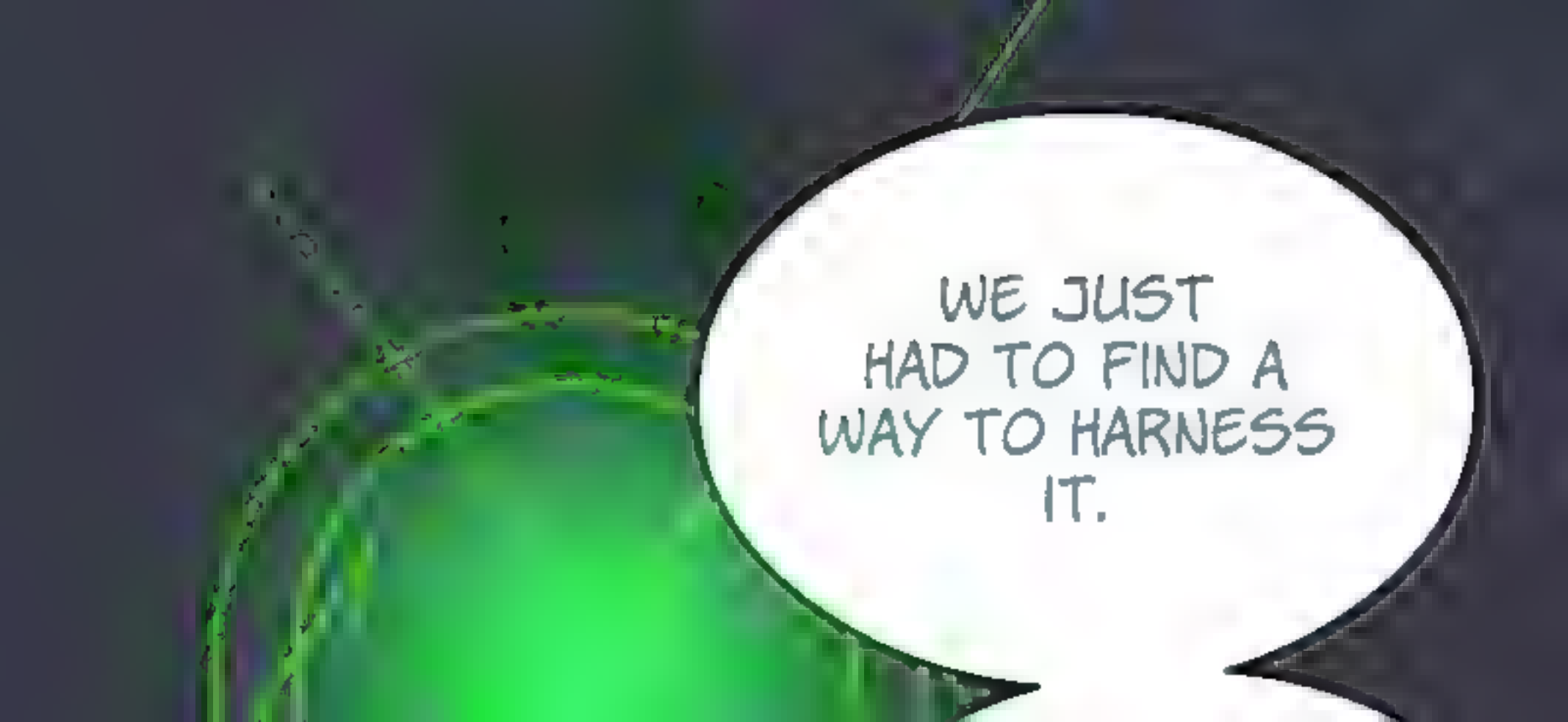
OF COURSE,
THERE WAS SUPPOSEDLY
NOTHING TO FEAR BECAUSE YOU
WERE *RESET WHEN YOU*

DIED, RIGHT?

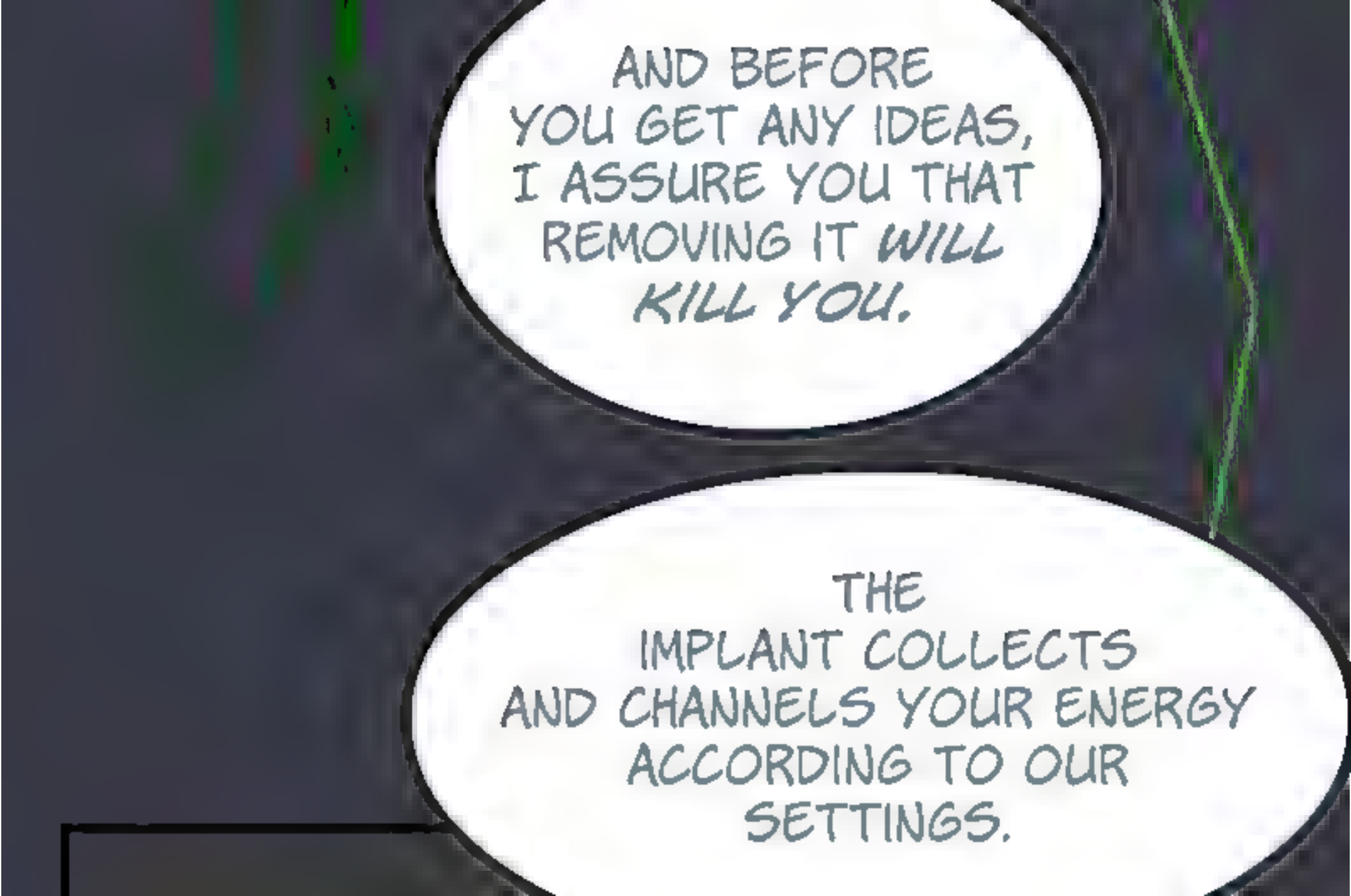

IF YOU ASK ME, THAT'S NOT GIVING YOU ENOUGH CREDIT...
YOU WERE ALWAYS A CLEVER BASTARD AND WE WEREN'T ABOUT TO MAKE THE MISTAKE OF BLINDLY TRUSTING YOU AGAIN.

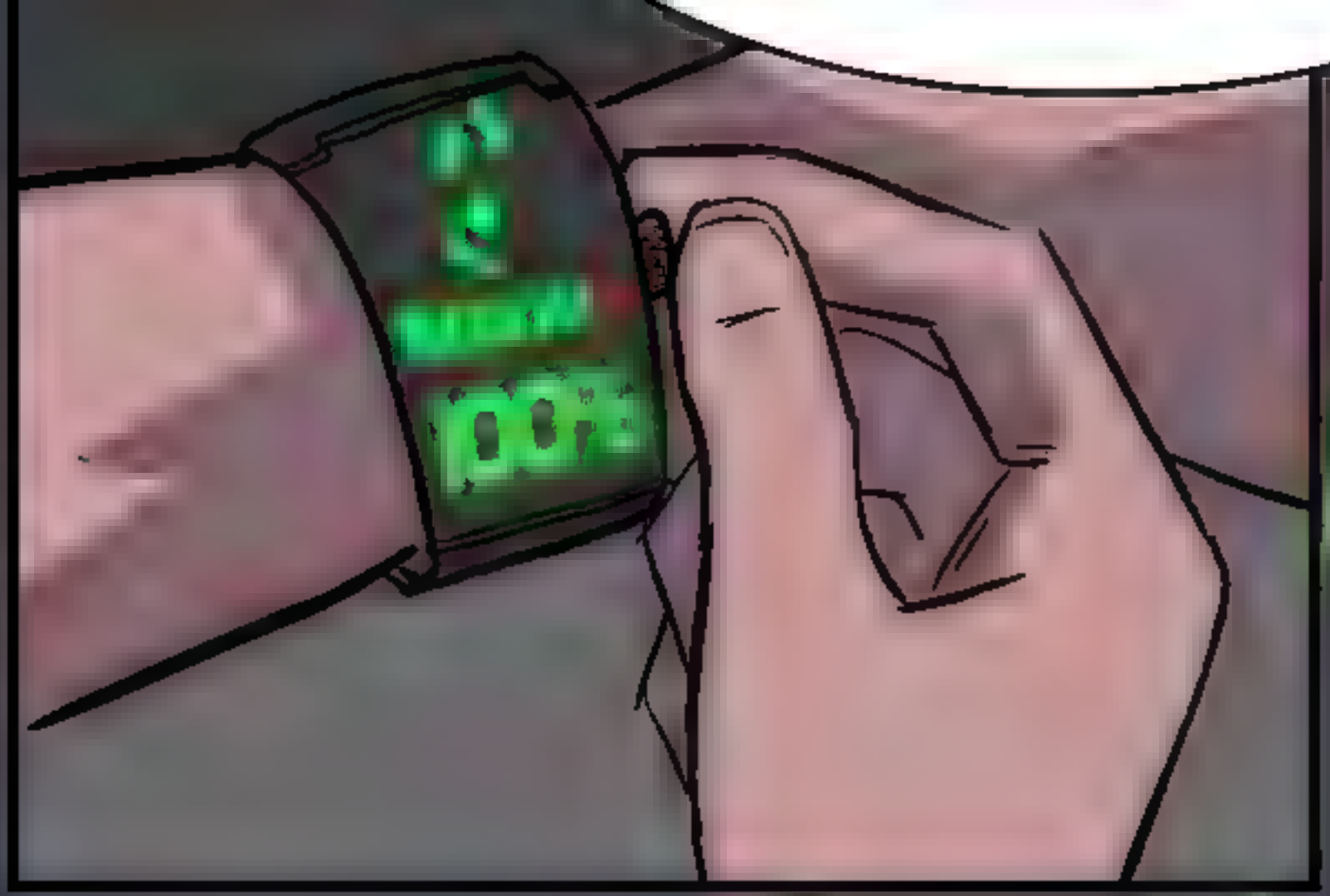



IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT WASN'T *YOU* WE NEEDED; IT WAS YOUR *POWER*.


WE JUST HAD TO FIND A WAY TO HARNESS IT.

SO WE CREATED AN IMPLANT, AND INSERTED IT IN YOU.

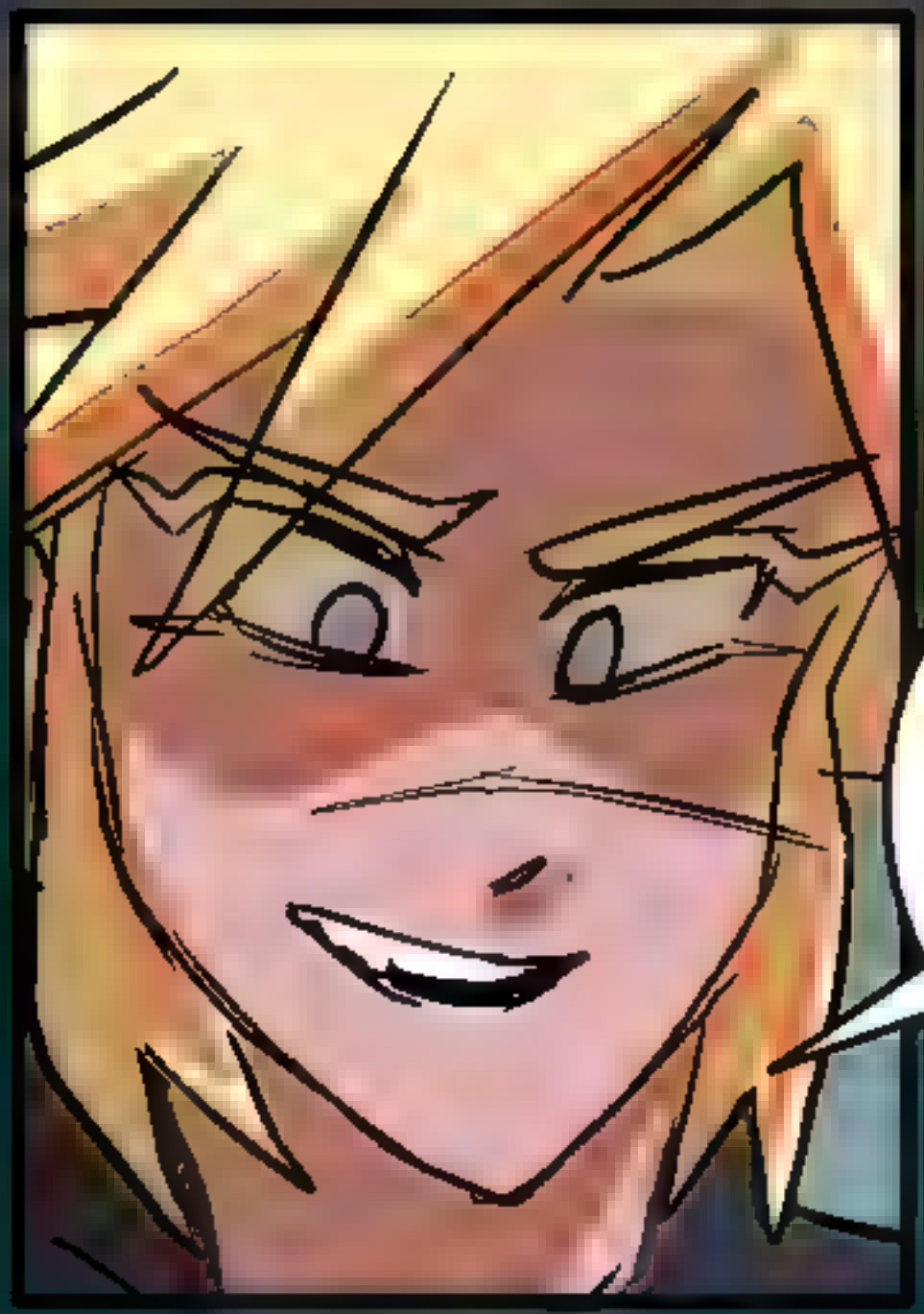

AND BEFORE YOU GET ANY IDEAS, I ASSURE YOU THAT REMOVING IT WILL KILL YOU.
THE IMPLANT COLLECTS AND CHANNELS YOUR ENERGY ACCORDING TO OUR SETTINGS.



WE CAN
STORE IT...

WE CAN POWER OUR WEAPONS...

AND USE
IT AGAINST
SHADOWS...
OZZZZT
OZZZZT

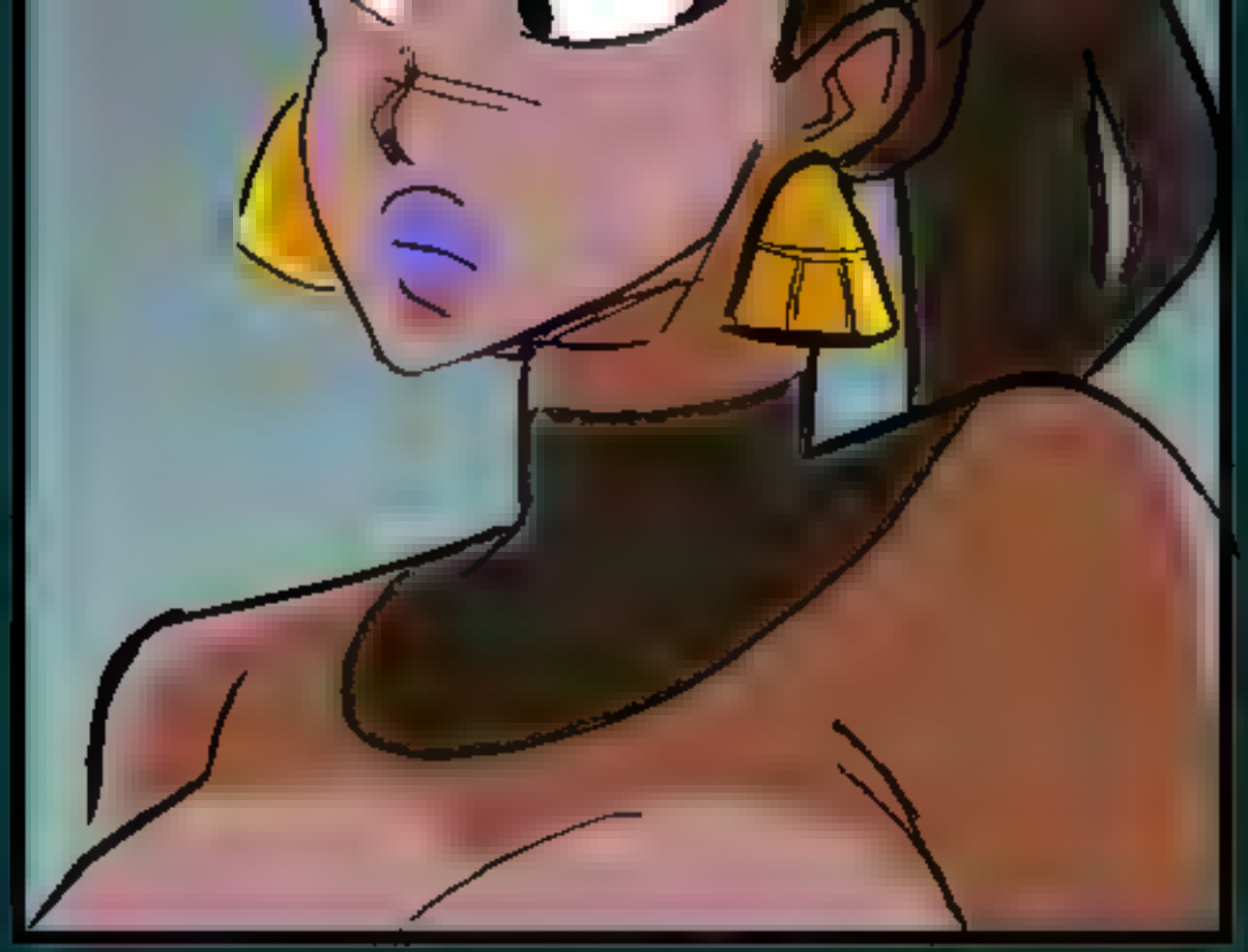


WITHOUT NEEDING TO *TRUST* YOU.

IT WAS STILL RISKY... IF WE WERE RIGHT, AND YOU HAD SOME PLAN TO FINISH US OFF...

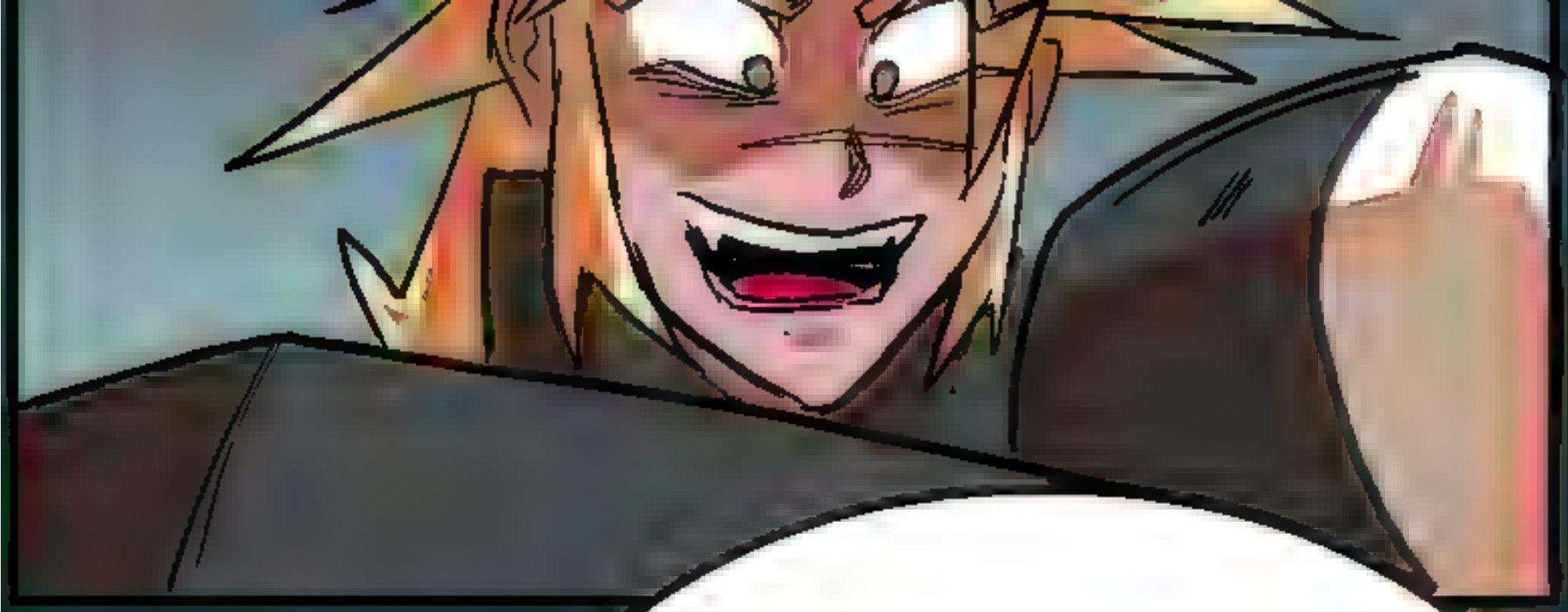
WE HAD TO MAKE SURE WE WEREN'T EXPOSING OURSELVES TO ANY UNNECCESSARY RISK.
THAT'S WHY WE WANTED YOU BACK WITHOUT ANY EXPERIENCE OR ACCESS TO A BOSS SWORD.

BUT EVEN WITH ALL OF OUR PLANNING... WHEN IT CAME TIME TO SET IT IN ACTION, NEPHTHYS DELAYED IT.



BECAUSE IN ANOTHER "STRANGE" TURN OF EVENTS, YOU HAD SOMEHOW STOLEN KODYA'S SOUL...

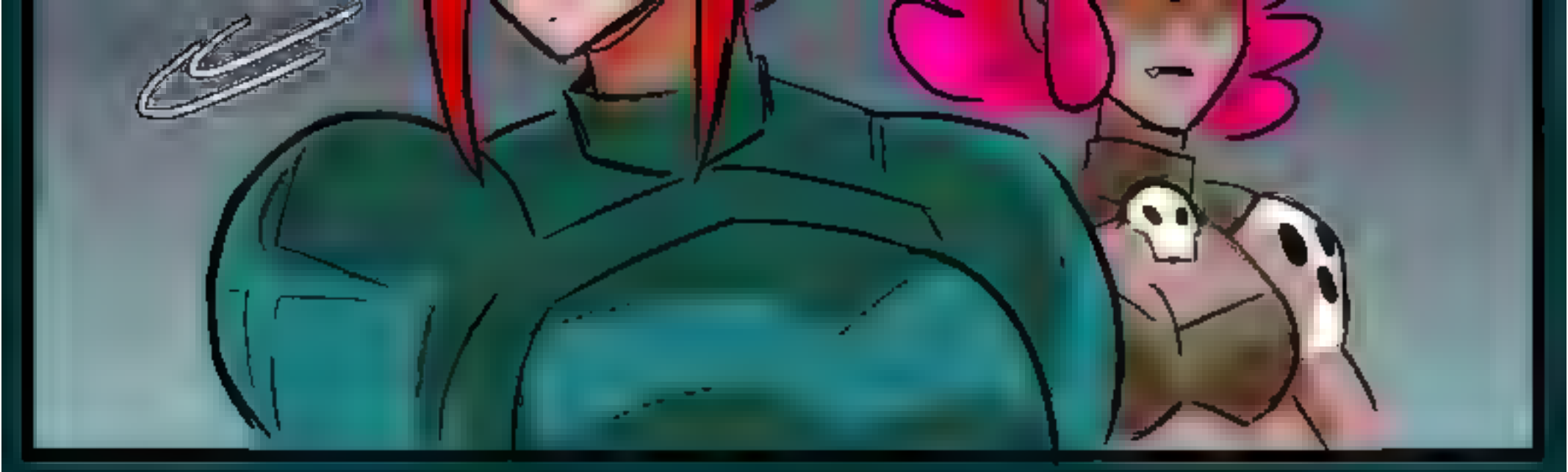
AND IF ANYTHING WENT WRONG, KODYA COULD DIE IN THE PROCESS.
AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF:



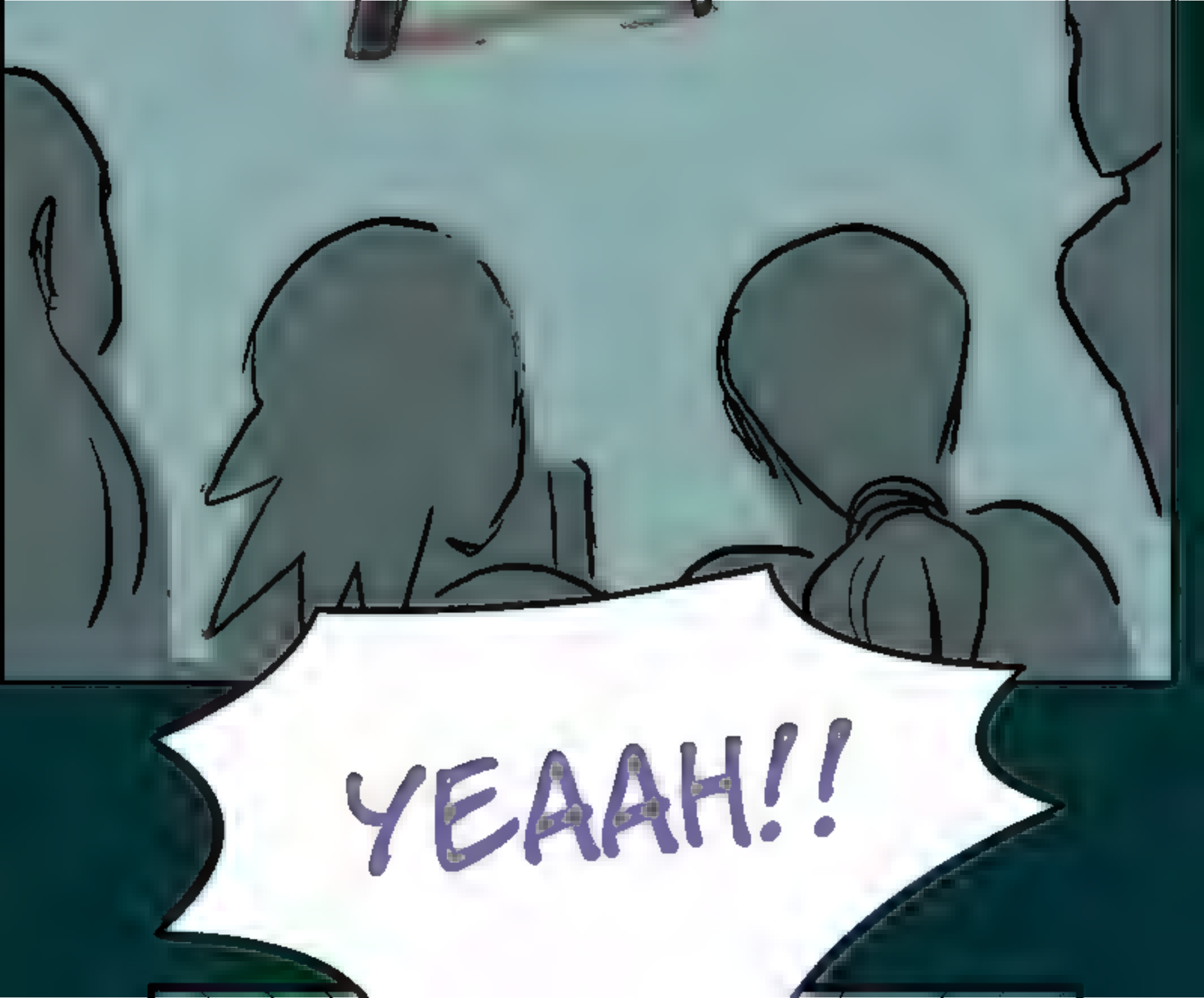
"WHAT A *FUNNY* COINCIDENCE THAT THE DAY GYRUS RETURNS, HE SHOULD HAPPEN TO HAVE THE *PERFECT* SHIELD ALREADY IN PLACE TO STOP US."

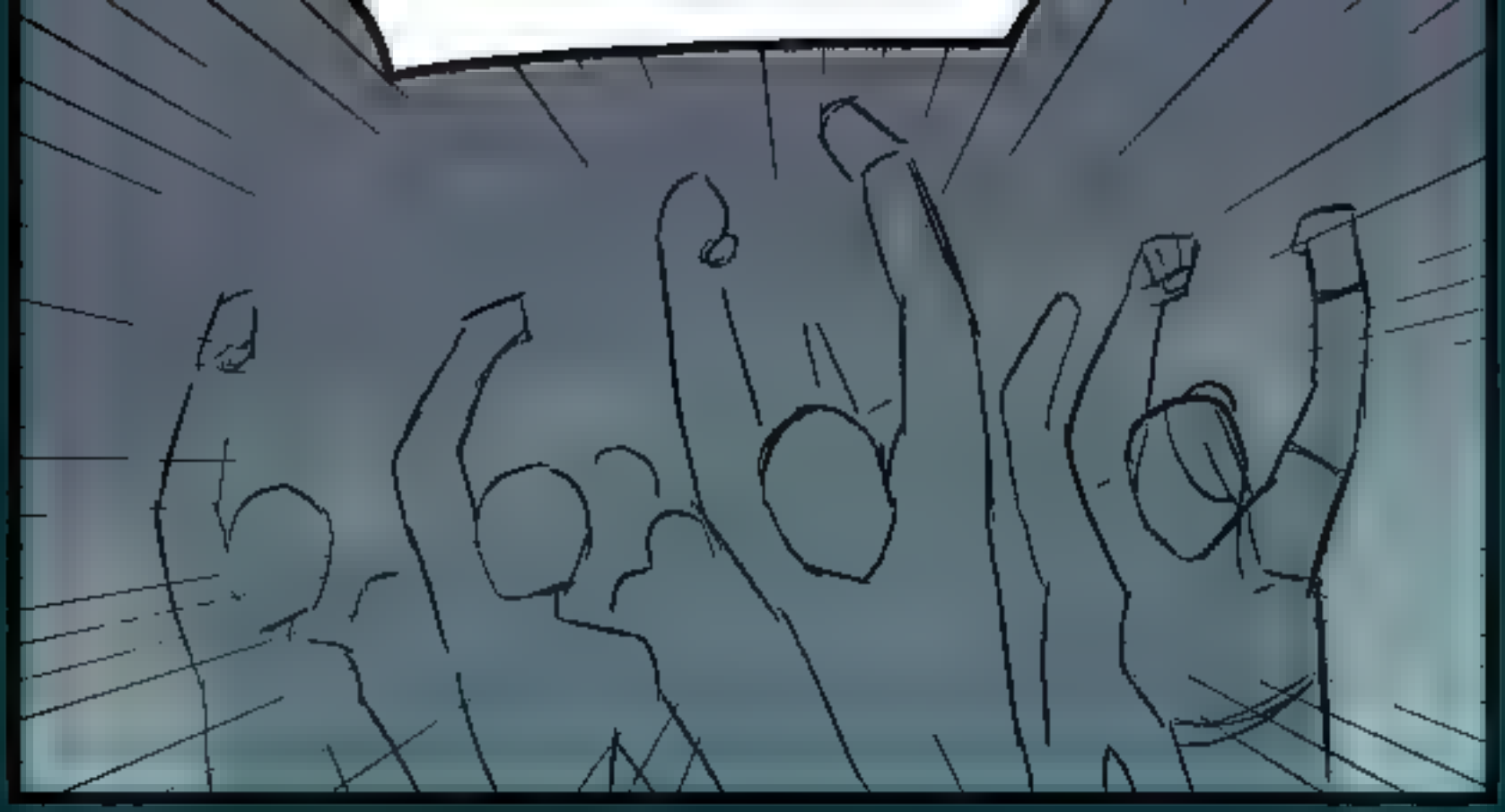
IF YOU HAD PLANNED TO BUY YOURSELF TIME, THEN I KNEW WE COULDN'T ALLOW YOU TO SUCCEED.

THANKS TO THESE TWO, MY SUSPICIONS WERE CONFIRMED BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.



AND NOW WE ARE *DONE* BEING YOUR VICTIMS!


YEAAH!!



REHEHE
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SHADOW-KILLING BATTERY, GOT THAT?

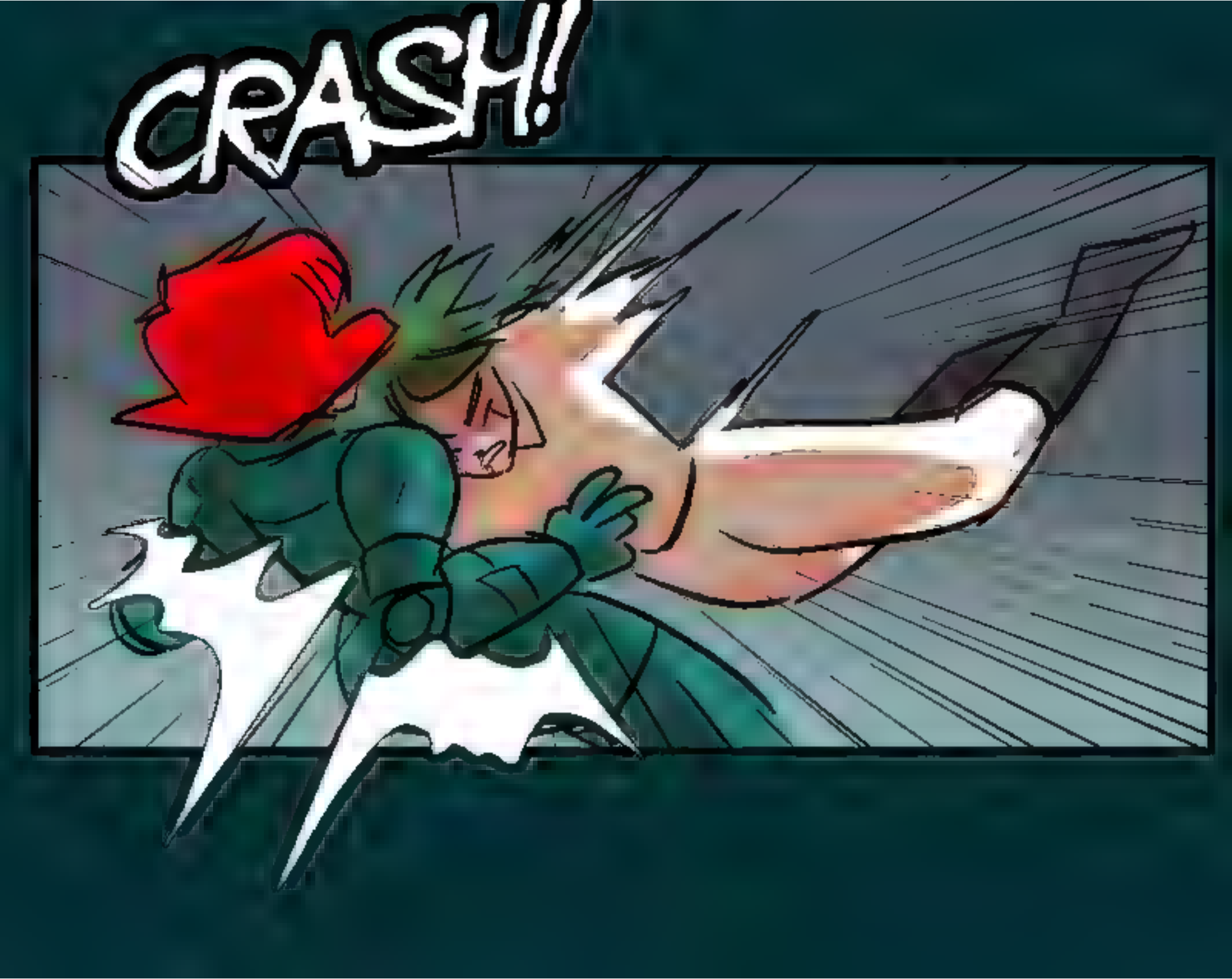
YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO DO THIS!

I'M
CAME HERE
TO HELP
YOU!

I-
I'LL FIND A WAY TO CONTROL THE SHADOW!

TOSS!

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY!


CRASH!

EAAH!
TORI...

GRRR
SYLVIA!

THEY'RE
BOTH TERRIFIED
OF ME!

TAK
TAK
YOU'RE NO LONGER A THREAT TO US.

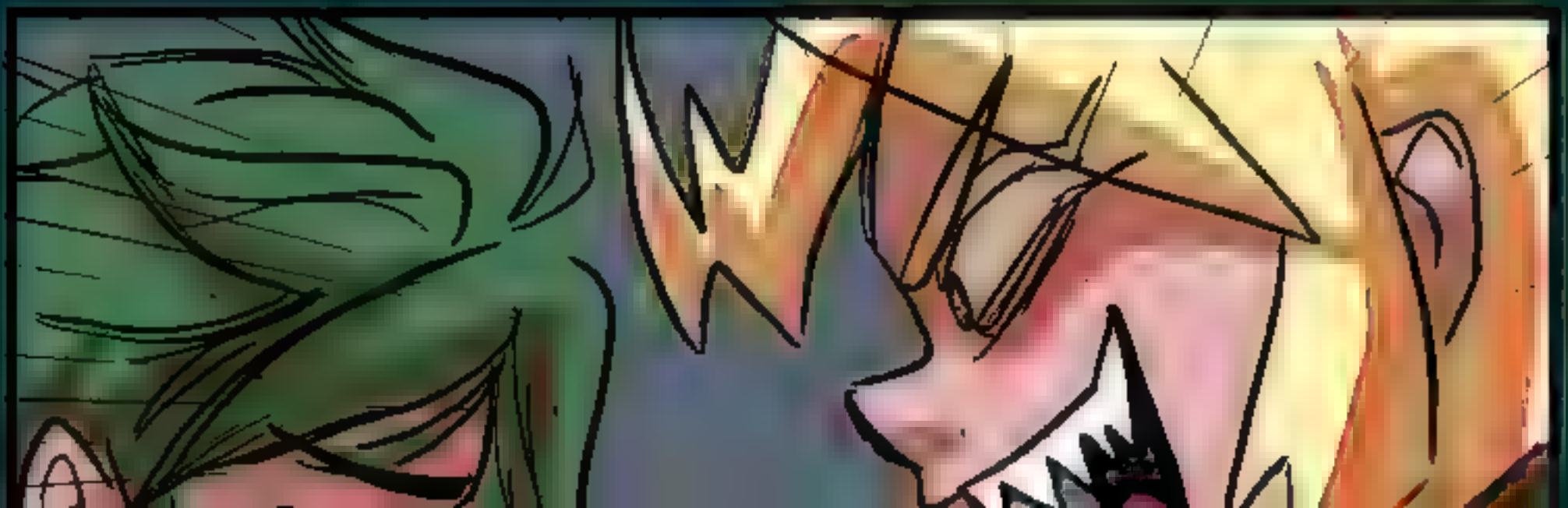
THE DAYS OF LIVING IN FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY ARE OVER!

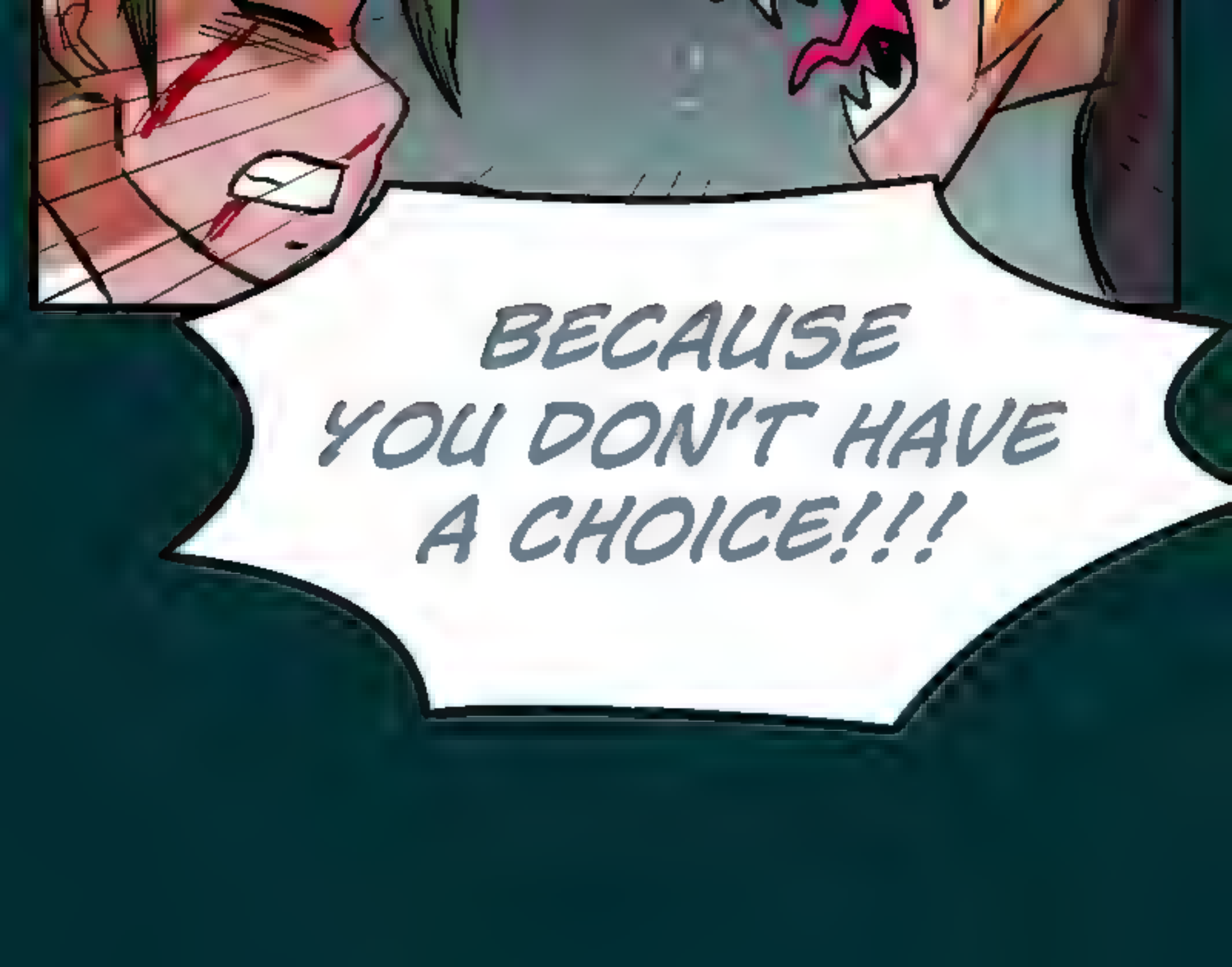
THIS POWER BELONGS TO US NOW!

YEAH!!!

ISN'T
THAT RIGHT,
MONSTER?

I--



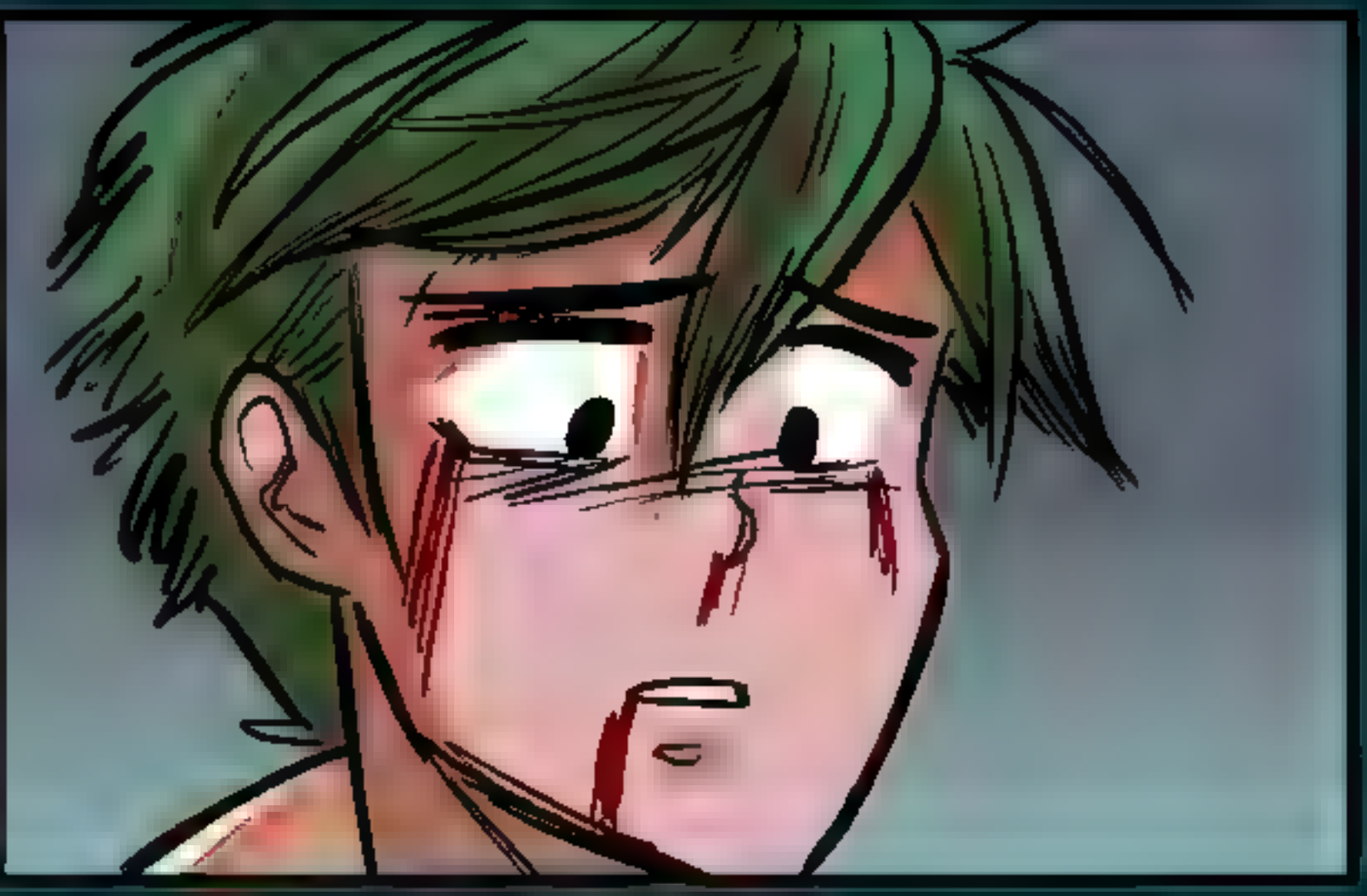

BECAUSE
YOU DON'T HAVE
A CHOICE!!!

IF HE EVER STEPS OUT OF LINE AGAIN...

WHAM!!!

ANY ONE OF US HAS THE MEANS TO CRUSH HIM.

COME ON! TAKE YOUR BANDS!
KICK



TAK

TAK

TORI
AND SYL...

I'M SORRY...
I LOST CONTROL....

CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?
...
...
TAK
TAK

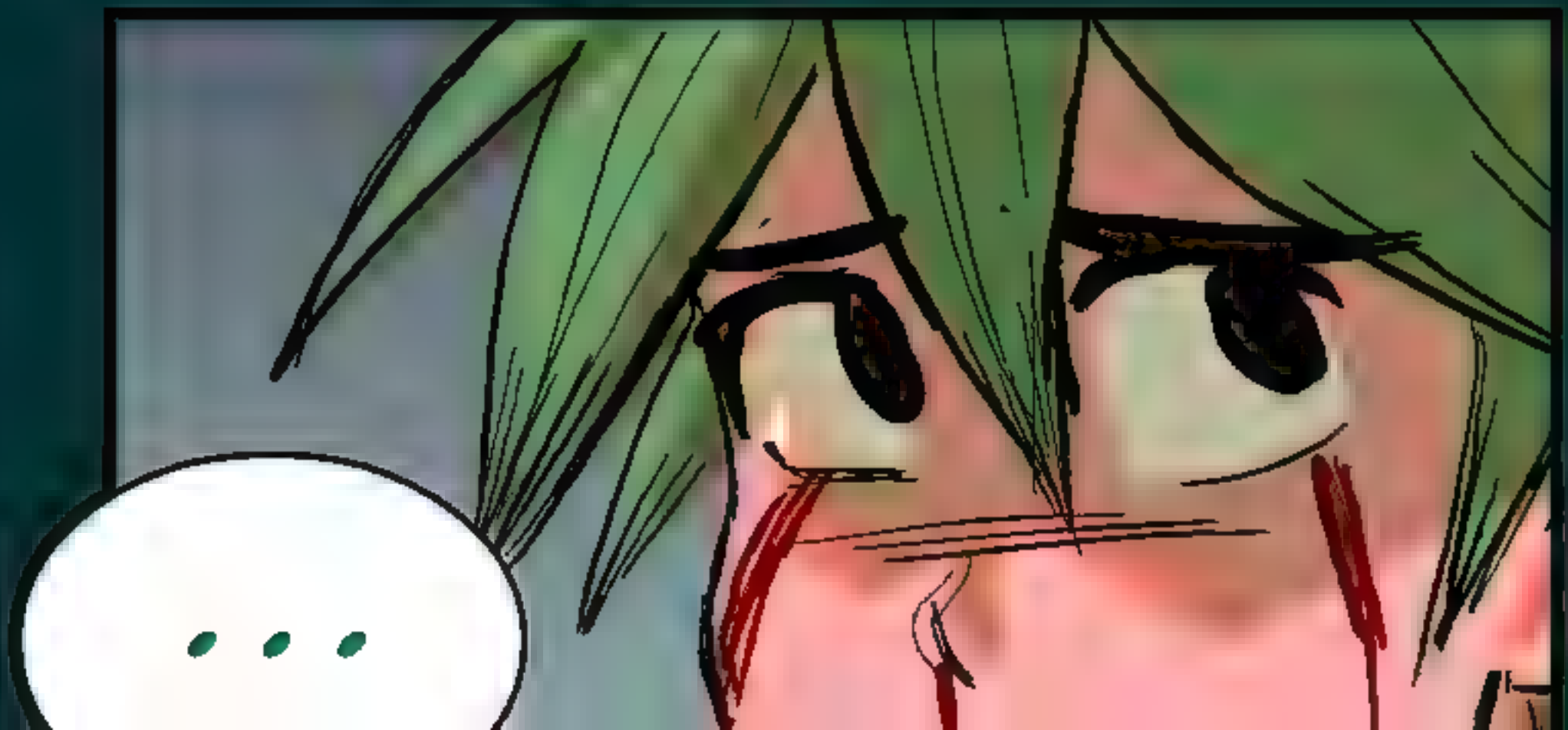
TAK
TAK
GUYS?

TAK

TAK

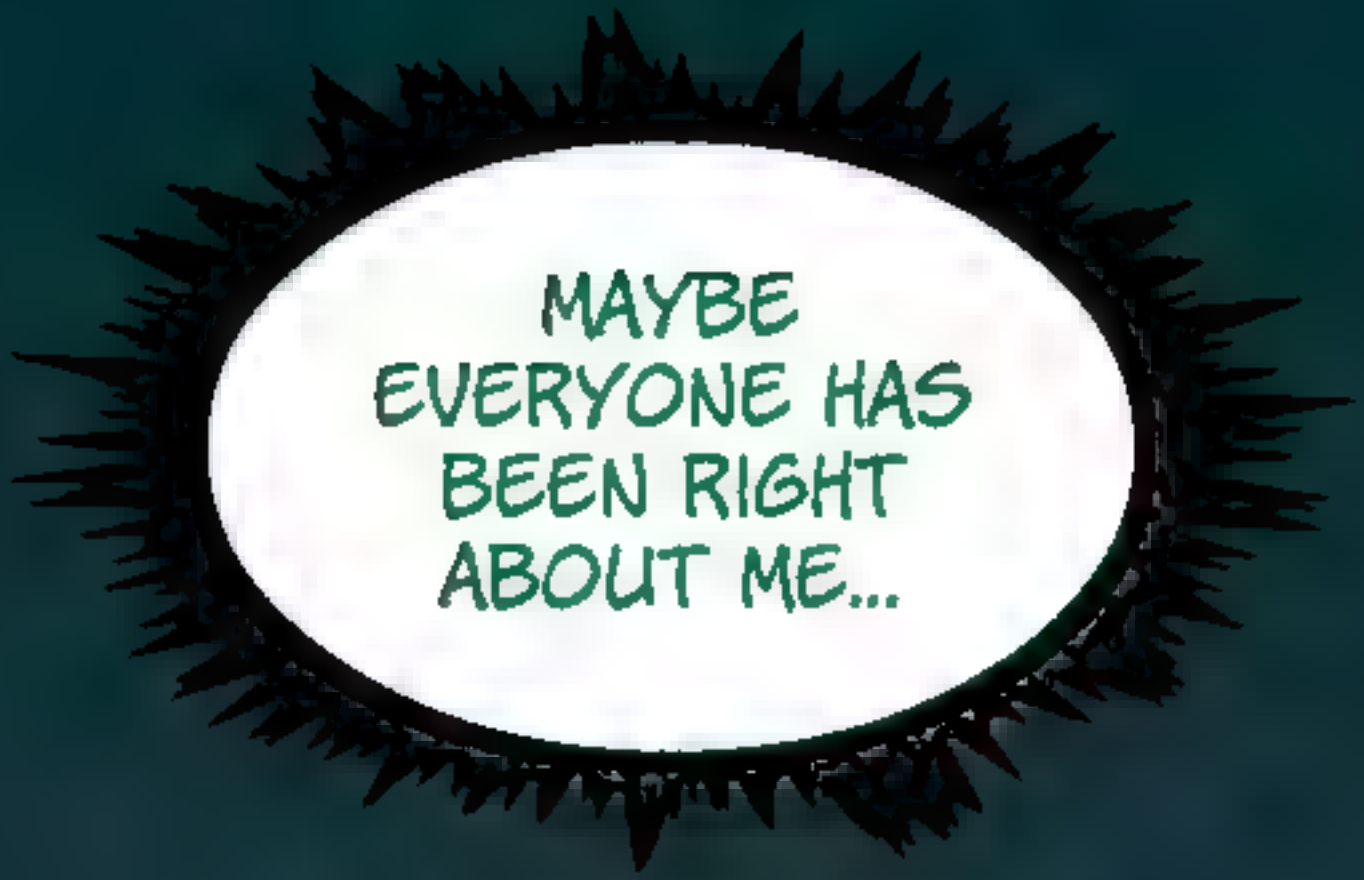
FANCY PANTS..!

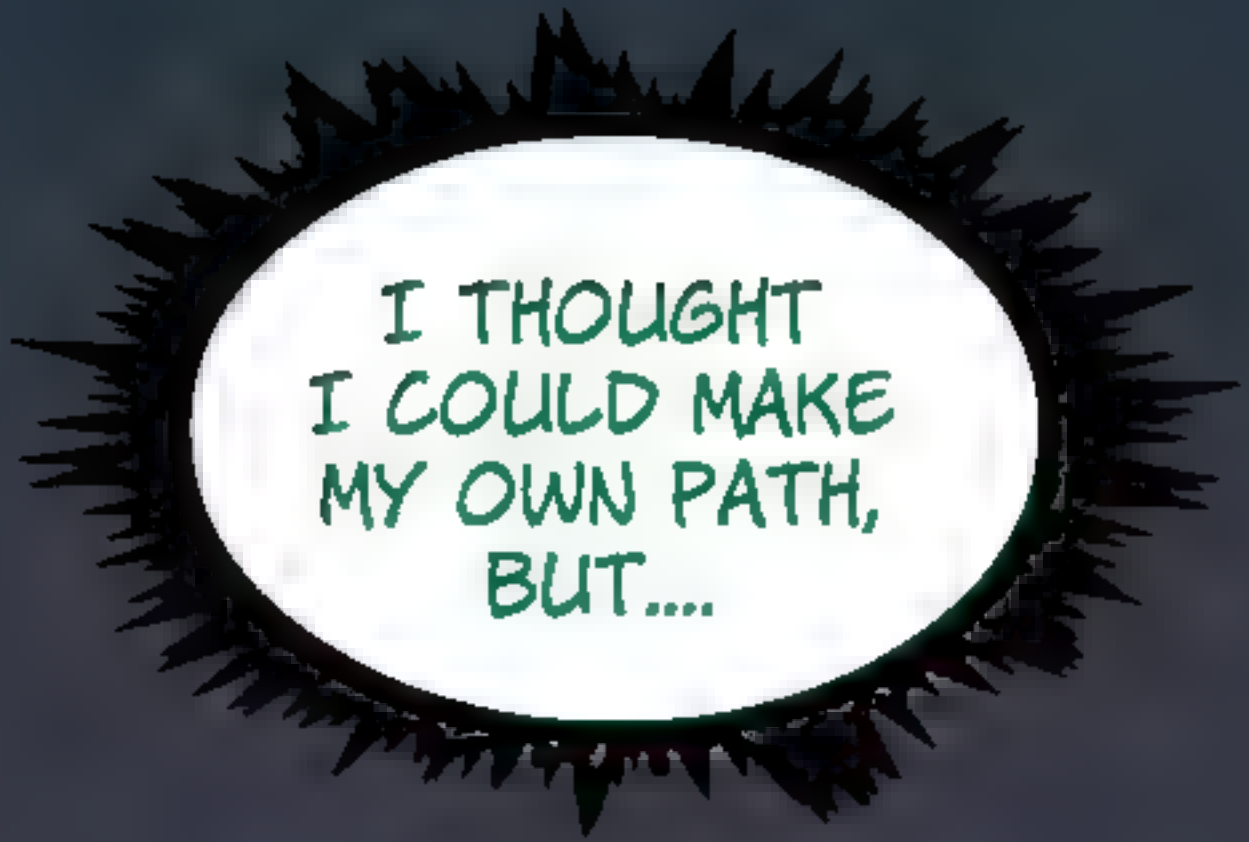
BAND?



NOD

GRAB


MAYBE EVERYONE HAS BEEN RIGHT ABOUT ME...


I THOUGHT
I COULD MAKE
MY OWN PATH,
BUT....

AM I DOOMED TO FOLLOW IN MY OWN FOOTSTEPS NO MATTER WHAT I DO?

TAK
TAK

022T

TAK
HUFF

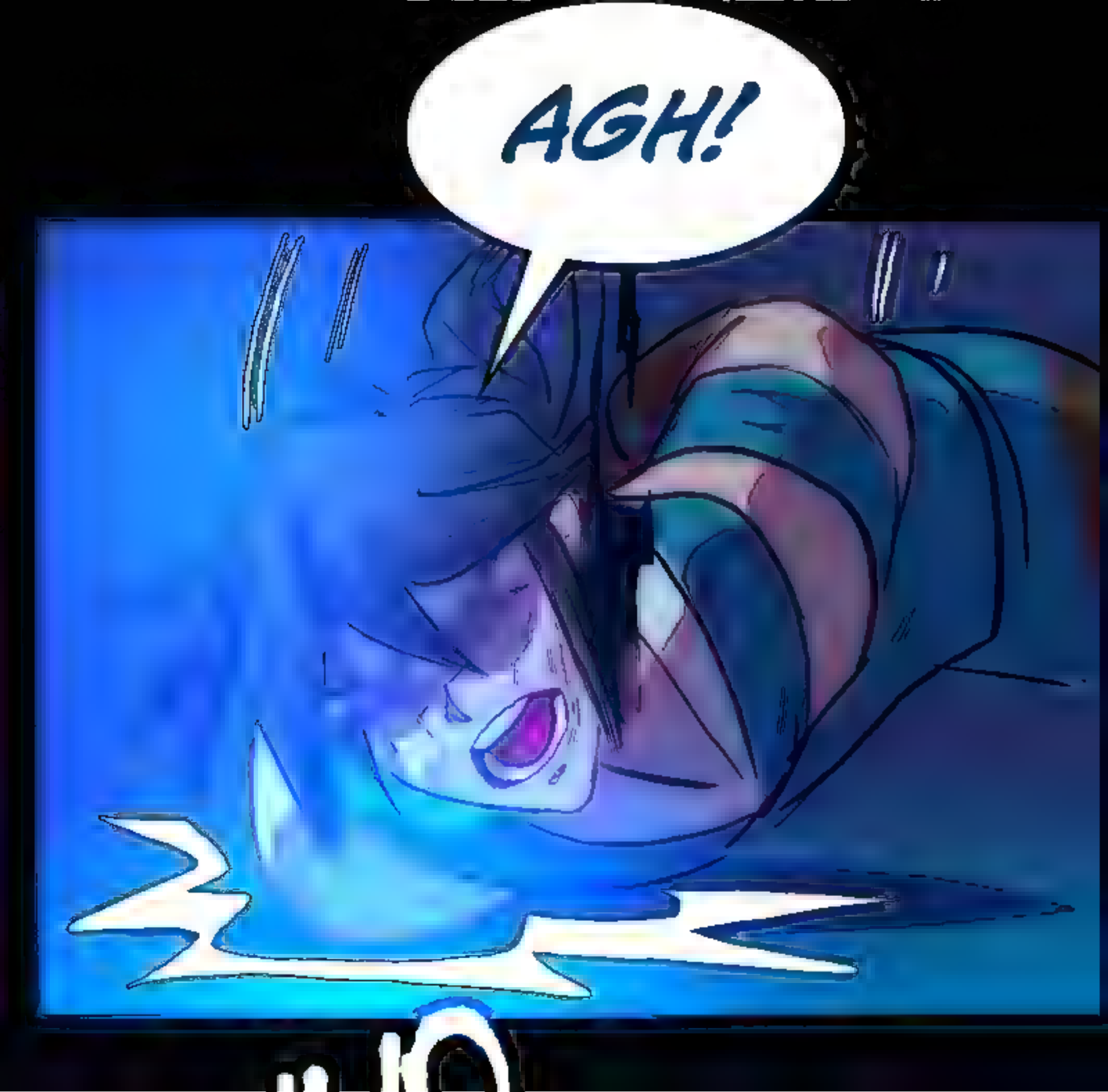
TAK
TAK
HUFF

TAK
TAK
HUFF
HUFF

0227

02221

TSSS
MMFF!


AGH!

THUD

GASP!
OZZZZ
THAT BOLT REMOVED THE SHADOW BONDS!

OZZZZ

DZZZZZT

блять...
I'D KNOW
THIS ENERGY
ANYWHERE...
OZZZT

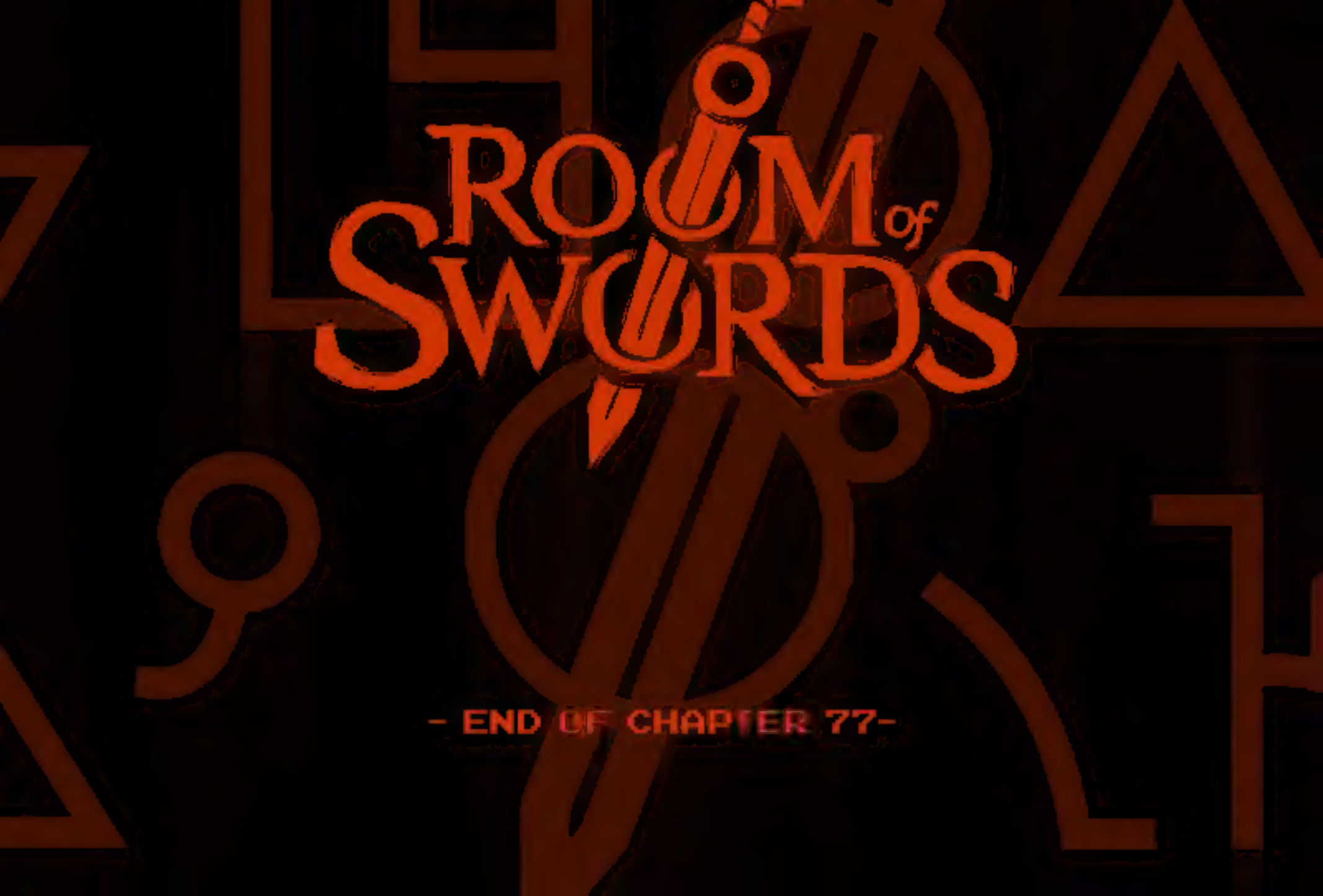
OZZY

BUT
WHERE IS IT
COMING FROM?

THE SHADOW RETREATED THE MOMENT IT STARTED...

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT DECIDES TO COME BACK.

...IF ONLY I KNEW WHERE "HERE" WAS...


ROOM of SWORDS
- END OF CHAPTER 77-

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